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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 L-02 TRSE-00 SAM-01 /051 W
---------- 012043
R 121540Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2041
INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, PO, ELAB
SUBJECT: TAP STRIKE MAY BE CANCELLED

REF: LISBON 1273 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: TAP WORKERS CALLED TOTAL STRIKE FOR 8 A.M. MARCH 13. GOP ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT WORKER SALARY DEMANDS. SUPPORT FOR STRIKE WAS NOT SOLID. COUP ATTEMPT OF MARCH 11 HAS LED TO PROPOSALS FOR CANCELLATION OF STRIKE, TO BE DECIDED IN MARCH 12 MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 10 GENERAL MEETING, TAP EMPLOYEES DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANNED TOTAL STRIKE (REFTEL), TO TAKE EFFECT AT 8 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 13. PARTIAL STRIKE WAS HELD 10 A.M.-12 NOON MARCH 11 WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR 9 A.M.-1 P.M MARCH 12.

2. MEANWHILE, ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S (AFM) COUNCIL OF
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TWENTY AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD SPECIAL SESSIONS OVER WEEK-

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END TO DECIDE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE SUB-
SEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT GOP INTENDED TO MAINTAIN POSITION OF
NOT ACCEPTING DEMANDS FOR SALARY INCREASES BEYOND THOSE IT HAS
ALREADY PROPOSED. WORKERS DEMAND $7.75 MILLION PER YEAR ADDI-
TIONAL SALARIES, WHILE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED $2.5 MILLION.
GOP CLAIMED THAT ORIGINAL SALARY AND OTHER MONETARY DEMANDS
TOTALLED $40 MILLION.

3. COMMUNIQUE POINTED OUT THAT TAP IS CONFRONTING DEFICIT
OPERATIONS AND GREAT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. (MINISTRY OF
LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TOLD WORKERS' MEETING THAT A MORE THAN
$8 MILLION DEFICIT FORESEEN FOR 1975.) IT POINTED OUT THAT
WORKERS WERE ASKING FOR "VERY ONEROUS" SUBSIDIES. THESE WOULD
HAVE TO COME FROM THE WHOLE COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT THOSE WHO ARE
ALREADY IN A VERY PRIVILEGED POSITION, DUE TO SALARIES MUCH
HIGHER THAN RECEIVED BY VAST MAJORITY OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS.

4. AGREEMENT ON STRIKE WAS NOT SOLID EVEN BEFORE MARCH 11
EVENTS. AT MARCH 10 MEETING, FOUR UNIONS UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTED
STRIKE DECISION, SIX SUPPORTED IT WITH RESERVATIONS, AND THREE
HAD YET TO BE HEARD FROM. IN MARCH 11 MEETING FLIGHT PERSONNEL
TOTALLY WITHDREW SUPPORT FOR STRIKE. IN A COMMUNIQUE THEY
LINKED TAP STRIKE THREAT WITH STUDEND STRIKES, VIOLENCE IN
SETUBAL, AND PROFUSE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPAGANDA "IN A JOINT
MANEUVER TENDING TO CREATE A PROPITIOUS CLIMATE FOR A COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY COUP."

5. IN HIS EXTEMPORANEOUS RADIO SPEECH MARCH 11 (LISBON 1328)
PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES SINGLED OUT TAP STRIKE. "AT THE
MOMENT WE WERE BEING ATTACKED, A TAP STRIKE WAS BEING PREPARED."
HE SAID TAP WORKERS AND OTHERS HAVE TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE PERILS
THEY RUN BY DIVIDING THEMSELVES, SPLITTING OFF FROM THE ARMED
FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM).

6. ON AFTERNOON MARCH 11 A MEETING OF PART OF SECRETARIAT
OF SYNDICATE DELEGATES RECOMMENDED THAT, CONSIDERING CURRENT
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, STRIKE CALL BE WITHDRAWN. THIS PROPOSAL
IS TO BE CONSIDERED BY TAP WORKERS IN GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 12.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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